

Laurel Grove Stormwater Treatment

Rain falling on the Creeklands catchment may land on vegetation, soak into the soil and gradually make its way down hill while supporting plants along the way. If it ends up in the creek it will be travelling slowly and will be filtered and clean.

Rain falling on hard surfaces such as roofs and roads will travel quickly as runoff to the creek collecting pollutants along the way and providing no benefit to surrounding vegetation.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (or WSUD) aims to capture runoff from hard surfaces and make it available to plants, slowing its movement and filter out pollutants. WSUD can be done in a number of ways including mimicking riparian ecosystems and complementing existing wetlands and waterways.

**A new WSUD feature is planned for Blackburn Creeklands.
It will be constructed in Kalang Park just west of the end of Laurel Grove North
and will collect the runoff from the road.**

The water will be diverted into a concrete sediment trap where most pollutants will be retained. This area can be easily inspected and cleaned when required. The water will then flow into an ephemeral wetland (seasonally wet) where it will soak into the soil and support a rich diversity of indigenous plants.

The installation of this treatment will involve the removal of 4 non-indigenous trees and some earthworks but after this initial disruption, the Creeklands and Gardiner's Creek will benefit from the reduction in pollution. As part of the project approximately 700m² of exotic mown grass, will be converted to riparian vegetation effectively doubling the habitat value of waratah wetland.

Biodiversity and habitat value will be enhanced with over 4000 native plants from 32 species planted as part of this project. Downstream the water will be cleaner and will flow more slowly benefiting aquatic insects and reducing erosion.